

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT - CAE

1. THE LATEST DRAFT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, WHICH WE JUST RECEIVED BY POUCH FROM AF/C, CONTAINS TWO COMMENTS ON THE COST OF THE CORONATION. INCLUSION OF SUCH COMMENTARY IS AT VARIANCE WITH ASSURANCES BOTH I AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP HAVE GIVEN TO CAE OFFICIALS THAT THE CORONATION WAS AN INTERNAL CAE MATTER ON WHICH IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR USG TO COMMENT.
2. THE DRAFT REPORT STATES IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH THAT THE CAE'S "HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE HAS SUFFERED RECENTLY FROM ISOLATED INDIVIDUAL CASES WHICH HAVE RECEIVED WIDESPREAD MEDIA ATTENTION --SUCH AS THE DETENTION OF THE TWO WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN JULY 1977, THE EARLIER (1972) EAR CUTTING AND PUBLIC BEATING INCIDENTS, AND THE INCONGRUITY MANY SAW IN THE CORONATION IN A POOR COUNTRY." ON THE FINAL PAGE IT ADDS, "IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE RECENT CORONATION COST ABOUT \$20 MILLION. ABOUT HALF OF THE COST WAS BORNE BY THE STATE."

3. ALTHOUGH THE CORONATION DOES INDEED RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GOCAE'S PRIORITIES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF ITS RESOURCES, WE
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DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADDRESSED IN THE PAPER.

4. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE EMPEROR HIMSELF WAS ANGERED BY ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORTS THAT USG HAD PUBLICLY TIED ITS SUSPENSION OF NEW AID PROJECTS FOR THE CAE TO CORONATION EXPENDITURES. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP TOLD CAE CHARGE

DECEMBER 7 THAT WE HAD AT NO TIME MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE COST OF THE CORONATION, THAT THIS WAS NOT OUR AFFAIR AND WE WOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON AN INTERNAL MATTER OF THIS NATURE. (77 STATE 292813.) I TOLD THE EMPEROR THE SAME DAY THAT IN OUR VIEW THE CORONATION WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE GOCAE AND THE USG HAD THEREFORE NOT COMMENTED ON IT. (77 BANGUI 2661.)

5. I STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT DELETE REFERENCES TO THE CORONATION FROM WHAT IS OTHERWISE AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE CAE. PLEASE ADVISE.
QUAINTON

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